

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 GEORGE 00631 241908Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 L-03 H-01 HA-05 /030 W
-----023480 242038Z /47

P 241745Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6283

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 0631

ARA/CAR PASS AMBASSADOR BURKE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC (STOEN, JOHN)
SUBJECT: W/W JOHN STOEN

REF: (A) GEORGETOWN 0581, (B) STATE 041710

1. CONSUL MET TODAY (FEB 24) WITH MINISTER OF JUSTICE SHAHABUDDEEN TO DISCUSS IN GENERAL TERMS STOEN CASE. MINISTER SHAHABUDDEEN ADVISED CONSUL THAT GUYANESE COURT DECISIONS AWARDED CUSTODY GENERALLY FOLLOW AMERICAN LAW, I.E., LEGAL FATHER IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE CUSTODY WITH MOTHER HAVING SECONDARY CUSTODY RIGHTS. HOWEVER, COURT ALWAYS RESERVES RIGHT TO DECIDE CASE ON "WHAT IS BEST FOR THE CHILD".

2. SHAHABUDDEEN FURTHER INFORMED CONSUL THAT SINCE CHILD CUSTODY CASES ARE CIVIL DISPUTES, THERE IS NO LEGAL REQUIREMENT FOR HEARINGS TO BE SCHEDULED WITHIN A SPECIFIC PERIOD OF TIME. SOME CASES CAN BE RESOLVED QUICKLY AND OTHERS TAKE LONGER DEPENDING UPON THE SCOPE OF THE CASE. SHAHABUDDEEN STATED THAT WHEN A JUDGE IN GUYANA DECIDES TO GIVE HIS DECISION IN WRITING SUCH AN OPINION CAN TAKE AT LEAST FOUR MONTHS BEFORE HIS DECISION IS RELEASED. WHEN SHAHABUDDEEN ASKED WHEN THE LAST HEARING WAS HELD AND THE JUDGE'S DECISION ON HOW HE (THE JUDGE) PLANNED TO PROCEED FUR-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 GEORGE 00631 241908Z

THER, CONSUL REPLIED THE LAST HEARING WAS HELD ON JANUARY 10 AND THE JUDGE ANNOUNCED HE WOULD GIVE HIS OPINION IN WRITING. SHAHABUDDEEN THEN COMMENTED THAT THE DELAY TO DATE WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED EXCESSIVE.

3. CONSUL SHOWED MINISTER SHAHABUDDEEN STATE TELEGRAM 036362 WHICH REPORTED THE HEAVY CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST

IN THE STOEN CASE. CONSUL VERY CAREFULLY EXPLAINED TO THE MINISTER THAT HIS VISIT WAS SIMPLY FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES AND NOT TO INDICATE USG CONCERN WITH GUYANESE JUDICIAL PROCESS IN THIS CASE. SHAHABUDDEEN REPLIED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD. THE MINISTER THEN REMARKED THAT HE BELIEVES HE WAS APPOINTED TO THE CABINET POSITION BY THE PRIME MINISTER BECAUSE OF HIS REPUTATION AS A "LEGAL TECHNICIAN" WHO WOULD DEFEND THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY FROM EXECUTIVE (READ GOVERNMENT) INTERFERENCE. HE EXPECTED TO MAINTAIN HIS REPUTATION WHILE HE WAS MINISTER. HE THEN TOLD CONSUL THAT HE (SHAHABUDDEEN) WAS AVAILABLE AT ANY TIME FOR ADVICE ON THIS MATTER OR ON ANY OTHER LEGAL QUESTION THAT MAY ARISE.

4. COMMENT: SHAHABUDDEEN HAS BEEN EASILY ACCESSIBLE AND HELPFUL TO EMBASSY. HE IS CONSIDERED HIGHLY COMPETENT AND PROBABLY WOULD RESIST POLITICAL PRESSURES TO INTERVENE ON THIS OR ANY OTHER CASE.
BLACKEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GEORGE00631
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780086-0784
Format: TEL
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780218/aaaaaopr.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7ad438d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GEORGETOWN 581, 78 STATE 41710
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3490826
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: W/W JOHN STOEN
TAGS: CASC, (STOEN, JOHN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7ad438d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014